

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

collection very enthusiastically, and to F. Wayne King, A. C. Pooley and H. R. Bustard for their valuable help, suggestions and

criticisms. As always, special thanks to our Irula friends, whose knowledge of natural history puts—or should not put—us all to shame.

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ROMULUS WHITAKER
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17. EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF DISTRIBUTION OF A
MICROHYLID FROG [*UPERODON SYSTEMA* (SCHNEIDER)]

The microhylid frog, *Uperodon systoma* (Schneider) (the Marbled Baloon Frog) has so far been recorded from Agra and Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh), Tamil Nadu, S. Kerala and Karnataka (Peninsular India) and Sri Lanka (Thurston 1888; Boulenger 1890; Ferguson 1904; Nieden 1926; Parker 1934; Mahendra 1939; Daniel 1963). Recently, six examples (5 ♂♂, 1 ♀) of *Uperodon systoma* (Schneider) were collected from Siwalik hills near Badshahibag (District Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh) nearly 5 km east of the point where river Yamuna cuts through the Siwalik hills.

The occurrence in the Siwalik hills extends the range of distribution of the species northwards.

A burrowing form, it is found buried under the superficial layer of soil below bushes and stones and is ordinarily not seen because of its nocturnal habits. During breeding season, it visits water holes for laying the spawn. In

Siwaliks, it breeds in standing pools of water during the month of July when the pools are filled with rain water.

The species could have a much wider distribution than so far attributed to it has been appropriately pointed out by Daniel (1963). Further thorough surveys might extend its range still further. This record is the first from Siwalik hills and it is likely that the species might also exist in some pockets in the foothills of the Himalayas although Waltner (1974) has not recorded it in the Himalayas.

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18. THE SPECIFIC IDENTITY OF THE SOLE, *ZEBRIAS ZEBRA* (BLOCH) IN INDIAN WATERS

Five species namely *Zebrias synapturoides* (Jenkins), *Z. guagga* (Kaup), *Z. altipinnis* (Alcock); *Z. cochinchensis* Rao (1967) and *Z. annandalai* Talwar and Chakrapany (1967) of the genus *Zebrias* Jordan & Snyder (Family Soleidae) are so far reported from Indian waters. Of these, the first three species were recorded by Norman (1928) in his revision of flatfishes of India, and he considered Day's (1889) *Synaptura zebra* (Bloch) as the synonym of *Z. guagga*. Chen & Weng (1965), in their review of flatfishes of Taiwan, China, included *Synaptura zebra* under *Zebrias zebra* (Bloch) which they distinguished from *Z. guagga* by the absence of tentacles on eyes.

While Day (1889) in his account of *S. zebra* mentioned that barbels on eyes are present in some specimens, Norman (1928) pointed out that his specimens of *Z. guagga* from Persian Gulf lacked orbital tentacles and had different form and arrangement of cross bars. This suggests that the description of *S. zebra* of Day and that of *Z. guagga* of Norman, in

each case, pertained to a composite species.

In the course of identification of flatfish from west coast of India, I came across two specimens of sole (*Zebrias*) measuring 125.0 and 137.0 mm in total length, collected off Jaigad coast, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra. Except for the absence of orbital tentacles these specimens agree well with Day's description of *Synaptura zebra*. The scales are strongly ctenoid and each possesses 10 to 12 short spinules on the posterior edge.

As the occurrence of *Z. zebra* in Indian waters is re-established it would seem reasonable to believe that Day's (1889) specimens of *S. zebra* with barbels and Norman's (1928) specimens of *Z. guagga* without barbels represented *Z. guagga* and *Z. zebra* respectively.

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